



Deborah Phelps

Leader | Mentor | Influencer | Speaker | Author

Deborah Phelps is widely recognized as an innovative, energetic, and talented leader and master teacher with more than four decades of teaching and administrator experience. A native of Allegany County (Western Maryland), Ms. Phelps received her Master's degree in Education Management & Supervision from Loyola College (MD) and B.A. in Education from Fairmont State College, from which she received the Outstanding Alumnae honor in 2010 and was the Commencement Speaker in 2009. The proud mother of three children and grandmother of six, Ms. Phelps is the Executive Director of The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, Inc. She is a motivational speaker and author that addresses a range of topics related to education, child development, health, and life lessons.

As the Executive Director of The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, Inc., a private, non-profit charitable organization under IRS section 501 (c) (3), her transformational leadership role not only helps to navigate funds for innovative programs, scholarships and resources for students and teachers but the establishment of two collaborative educator's resource centers. A former classroom teacher, school based and district-based leader, Ms. Phelps was eager to tackle a national issue of teachers having a lack of school supplies for their classrooms, Ms. Phelps and team designed two resource centers, *The Exchangeree: Gizmos and Gadgets Galore*, supporting Baltimore County Public School's nearly 10,000 teachers and 115,000 students.

Ms. Phelps has served on multiple business and community-advisory boards including the Board of Trustee, the Women's Leadership Institute of Baltimore (WLIB) and the President's Advisory Council for the Notre Dame of Maryland and the School of Education Board of Advisors for Loyola University. She is a member of the Chimes International Board of Directors and was honored by Chimes International with the Chimes Going Further to Help Others Go Far recognition. She is a board member on the Junior Achievement of Central Maryland and the Michael Phelps Foundation. She serves on multiple committees in support of the mission/vision/goals of the United Way of Central Maryland. With mentorship being a vital part of the next generation, Ms. Phelps is proud to participate in the BBJ's Mentoring Monday initiatives.

Dedicated and committed to excellence in the field of education has earned Ms. Phelps many honors and accolades, including but not limited to being named one of the 2018 Influential Marylanders - Civic Leadership by The Daily Record, the Boys and Girls Club's Champion of Youth Award, and the Smart CEO BRAVA award. She was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by The Daily Record in both 2014 and 2020, the Toast of Towson by The Towson Chamber of Commerce, and The Elijah E. Cummings Blazing Light Award. Ms. Phelps has also been honored as a Baltimore County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Finalist, a two-time Maryland Family & Consumer Science Teacher of the Year, and Baltimore County's "Baby Boomer of the Year" (2004). Ms. Phelps had the honor of delivering both the convocation and commencement address at Stevenson University in May 2017.

With a career beginning in education as a teacher in 1974, Deborah's role evolved from teacher to team leader to department chair, which has served as the foundation of her successful role in administration. Deborah proceeded on to become Assistant to the Executive Director of Schools - Southwest, and in 2005 was appointed Principal of Windsor Mill School, a position she held for seven years. Over the course of her distinguished career, Ms. Phelps has developed a state-of-the-art food science lab, designed, and implemented award-winning nutrition and food science curriculum and has been actively involved in the successful launch of two middle schools, including the launch of the Windsor Mill Middle School in 2006 to her current position of Executive Director which began in 2012.